



Committed to Fiscal Discipline

“Murphy has demonstrated commendable independence. And unlike many of his Democratic colleagues, the freshman lawmaker has shown himself to be a responsible and restrained spender. We sure could use a lot more of those in Washington.” [Bucks County Courier Times, July 20, 2007]

“We can’t argue with fiscal discipline, and we’re glad to see it remains a priority for the new congressman.” [Bucks County Courier Times, May 5, 2007]

✓ **Standing Up to Excessive Government Spending**

Voted Against the Democratic Budget

- Congressman Murphy broke with his party to oppose the Democratic Budget. He did so because he did not believe that it did enough to guarantee middle class tax breaks and rein in government spending. [Roll Call Votes #212, 557]

“Thumbs Up: To Congressman Patrick Murphy for breaking ranks with his party by voting against the party’s first budget plan. Murphy was one of only 12 Democrats who opposed the budget narrowly passed by the House, mostly because he felt it fell short on tax breaks for the middle class and controlling government spending. We’re glad to see some independence from Murphy and hope he continues to buck the party system when it comes to measures that don’t look out for the best interests of the 8th District.”

[Bucks County Courier Times: April 2, 2007]

Voted to Cut Nearly \$3 Billion in Spending from Appropriations Bills

- Congressman Murphy has repeatedly called for the cuts in excessive government spending on appropriations. [Roll Call Votes #467, 511, 525, 546, 571, 601, 659, 808]

✓ **Demanding Accountability and Responsibility**

Ended Deficit Spending in Congress

- Congressman Murphy is proud that one of his first votes – and his first floor speech – in Congress was in support of Pay-As-You-Go Budgeting. This bill says simply: if Congress is going to spend something, it needs to figure out how it’s going to pay for it first – just as American families do every day. This measure will not allow consideration of any bill that would increase the deficit over the five-year and ten-year windows.

Fighting for a Permanent Balanced Budget

- Congressman Murphy is an original cosponsor of House Joint Resolution 45, proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Voted Against a Congressional Pay Raise

- Congressman Murphy voted against a congressional pay raise of more than **\$4,400.**

✓ **A Proud Member of the Blue- Dog Coalition**

The Blue Dog Coalition is a group of 47 moderate and conservative Democratic members of Congress who stand together to fight for fiscal responsibility and a balanced budget.

The Coalition relentlessly pursues balanced budgets and common sense, conservative economics.

✓ **Fighting Wasteful Government Spending**

Voted Against Funding “the Perfect Christmas Tree Project” Earmark

- This earmark for “the Perfect Christmas Tree” would have cost **\$129,000**. It would be spent on doubling the retail space for a gift shop that would sell things like Christmas tree ornaments, lanterns, handmade soaps, among other things. Congressman Murphy voted to strip this earmark from spending bills.

Voted Against a Federal Program that Paid People to Take Federal Money

- Congressman Murphy voted against a new pilot program that would award grants to individuals to research proposals previously rejected by the National Science Foundation. It is wasteful to throw away taxpayer money on a program that helps people qualify for more taxpayer money — especially if their initial proposals were rejected.

Voted Against Pointless Funding for an Aquarium in Charleston, South Carolina

- Congressman Murphy voted to strip **\$150,000** earmarked for the South Carolina Aquarium. Aquariums that charge \$16 for a ticket – such as the Aquarium in South Carolina – and collects major corporate donations - such as BP, Whole Foods, and Wells Fargo - do not need federal funding.

Voted Against Money for the Corporations for Jefferson's Poplar Forest in Virginia

- This amendment will strip **\$200,000** earmarked for expansion of exhibits and outreach at Jefferson's Poplar Forest estate. Consistent with the Jeffersonian philosophy, Congressman Murphy believes in a “wise and frugal government.” Eighty-four percent of funds needed for this project have already been raised, and it is evident that the remaining funds can be raised privately to maintain the family retreat.

✓ **Protecting Middle Class Families from Excessive Taxes**

Supporting Over 15 Important Tax Cuts - Including:

Co-Sponsor of the Child Tax Relief Act

- This measure will double the child tax credit to \$2,000 in the first year of a child's life, or in the first year after a child is adopted, helping parents defray the costs of a new child at home.

Co-Sponsor of a Permanent Tuition Tax Deduction

- This measure allows taxpayers to deduct up to \$4,000 of post secondary education expenses.

Co-Sponsor of the Small Business Tax Relief Act

- This bill provides \$1.3 billion in tax relief to small businesses and allows small businesses to more easily afford large capital expenses by extending and increasing section 179 small business expensing and allowing businesses to individually deduct their capital investments. It also extends and enhances the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, which provides incentives to employers to hire individuals from targeted groups that frequently experience barriers to work.

Co-Sponsor of the Married Student Debt Relief Act

- This legislation ends the marriage penalty contained in the portion of the tax code allowing for allowing the deduction of student loan interest.

Lead Democratic Sponsor of the Permanent Adoption Tax Credit

- This measure makes permanent the tax credit of up to \$10,000 for qualified expenses relating to the adoption of a child for both domestic and international adoptions.

Co-Sponsor of the Telephone Excise Tax Repeal Act

- This tax was introduced in 1898 as a “luxury” tax to fund the Spanish American War. This “temporary” tax has lost its original purpose. It is now regressive, and disproportionately burdens low-income, rural and lifeline telephone subscribers who have only local telephone service.

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